

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 098975 TOSEC 040127
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098975 TOSEC 040127

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 07775 ACTION USUN NY INFO SECSTATE
BONN CAPETOWN CARACAS KUWAIT LAGOS LA PAZ LIBREVILLE LONDON
NEW DELHI OTTAWA PARIS PEKING PORT LOUIS PRAGUE PRETORIA DATED APR 14
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QTE:C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 07775

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, UNSC, UR

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA//APPROACH IN MOSCOW

REF: MOSCOW 7475

1. IN LATE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 12, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR
FORD HANDED OVER TO FIRST DEPUTY FONMIN KORNIYENKO CONTACT
GROUP PROPOSALS ON NAMIBIA AND READ TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE
(REFTEL) TO HIM. CANADIANS HAVE INFORMED US THAT DOCUMENT
WAS ACCEPTED COLDLY AND WITH CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS
WERE NOT IMPRESSED WITH CONTACT GROUP INITIATIVE.

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2. FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF VERBAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN FORD AND
KORNIYENKO IS TAKEN VIRTUALLY VERBATIM FROM CANADIAN
REPORTING CABLE: FORD EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS IMPORTANT
DOCUMENT WHICH OFFERED REAL HOPE FOR PEACE IN NAMIBIA.
KORNIYENKO RESPONDED THAT SOVIETS ASSUMED PROPOSAL FROM
FIVE WOULD BE SERIOUS AND IMPORTANT DOCUMENT AND AS SUCH
IT WOULD BE TREATED SERIOUSLY IN MOSCOW. HOWEVER, USSR

WAS STILL WORRIED ABOUT ATTITUDE OF REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TO PROPOSAL. FORD REPLIED THAT FIVE ARE HOPEFUL SAG WILL RESPOND FAVORABLY TO PROPOSAL. KORNIYENKO THEN ASKED WHAT SWAPO THOUGHT OF PROPOSAL. FORD ANSWERED THAT FIVE HAD RECEIVED NO REACTION FROM SWAPO BUT IN THAT REGARD HE BELIEVED THE USSR COULD BE HELPFUL.

3. KORNIYENKO NOTED THAT FEB. PLAN WOULD NOT HAVE WORKED AS USSR COULD NOT SUPPORT PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD ALLOW SAG FORCES TO REMAIN ON NORTHERN BORDER. FORD SAID THAT QUESTION OF THE REDUCTION AND CONTROL OF FORCES WAS VERY IMPORTANT AND HAD BEEN CAREFULLY EXAMINED IN PROPOSAL. FORD ADDED THAT WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF UN MILITARY FORCE AND REDUCTION OF SAG FORCES TO 1500 MEN, SOUTH AFRICAN INFLUENCE ON FREE ELECTIONS WOULD BE MINIMAL.

4. AT END OF CONVERSATION FORD SAID THAT HE ASSUMED HE COULD REPORT THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD STUDY SERIOUSLY THE PROPOSALS. KORNIYENKO REPLIED RATHER GLUMLY THAT ANY DOCUMENT OF THIS TYPE WOULD BE STUDIED SERIOUSLY BUT THAT SHOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD AS A POSITIVE REACTION. FORD REPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE A GREAT PITY IF INITIATIVE DID NOT SUCCEED AFTER THIRTY YEARS OF EFFORTS TO SOLVE PROBLEM. TOON UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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